REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-34. Claims 1, 12, 22 and 30-32 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 12, 13 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Srivastava et al. (U.S. Patent 6,549,922) in view of Odom et al. (U.S. Patent 5,842,213) and further in view of Kwang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,862,327). Claims 1, 12 and 22 have been amended to clarify the distinction of the present invention over the cited art.

Srivastava describes an extensible framework for the automatic extraction and transformation of metadata from media files into logical annotations. A type-specific parsing module, based on the mimetype of the media file in question, extracts the metadata from each file. The annotations from the media files are formatted into a standardized form, which is then mapped into a database schema (abstract).

Odom describes a method for modeling, storing and transferring data in a non-hierarchical, non-integrated neutral form. This method is said to enable the direct integration of separate data models and their data (abstract). The method defines independent scope segment models and corresponding sets of information, which are automatically linked so as to function as the equivalent of a single model and set of information (col. 5, line 66 - col. 6, line 7).

Kwang describes an activity-based system for long-lived transactions between disconnected servers and clients (abstract). Users of the system can connect to a server, download their available activities, disconnect from the server and work on the activities by processing the information (col. 2, lines 41-43). Each activity uses only a small part of an enterprise database. Data subsetting is therefore used to define an activity-specific domain for data manipulation (col. 9, lines 37-42, cited by the Examiner). In other words, the term "domain," as used by Kwang, refers to a certain subset of an enterprise database that is used by a particular user in a particular activity. Kwang uses a schema in defining the database subset (col. 9, lines 42-44).

Claim 1 recites a method for processing source data from diverse sources in a selected data domain. The method uses a unified schema that is selected specifically for the selected data domain from among multiple schemata that are specific to different domains. The claim has been amended to clarify and make explicit the meaning of "domain" in the context of the present invention: each of the domains covers a global application field and is accessed by multiple users. Typical domains of this sort include the domain of computer system performance evaluation or the domain of customer relationship management (page 3, lines 3-7, and page 4, lines 28-32, in the present patent application). This sense of the term

"domain," extending over an entire field, is very different from that used by Kwang, for whom a "domain" is simply a subset of a larger database that is used in a particular activity.

As noted by the Examiner in the present official action, neither Srivastava nor Odom suggests the use of multiple, different schemata for different domains. Although Kwang does refer to a domain and its schema, Kwang's type of domain is far from meeting the definition of a domain that is recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 12 and 22 recite apparatus and a computer software product, respectively, which operate on principles similar to the method of claim 1. These claims have been amended in similar fashion to claim 1, and are therefore believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of claims 1, 12 and 22, claims 2, 13, 21 and 23, which depend from these claims, are believed to be patentable, as well.

Claims 3-11, 14-20 and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Srivastava in view of Odom and Kwang and further in view of one or more of Call (U.S. Patent 6,154,738), Draper (U.S. Patent 6,449,620), Kuwahara (U.S. Patent 6,202,072), Motoyama (U.S. Patent 5,504,891), Cianfrocca (U.S. Patent 6,088,796) and Kleinerman (U.S. Patent 6,041,365). Each of these claims depends from one of independent claims 1, 12 and 22. In view of the patentability of the amended independent claims, as explained above, claims 3-11, 14-20 and 24-29 are also believed to be patentable.

Claims 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Srivastava in view of Odom and Kwang and further in view of Sarkar (U.S. Patent 6,418,448). Applicant has amended independent claims 30-32 in order to clarify the distinction of the present invention over the cited art.

Sarkar describes a system for navigation through multiple XML/RDF documents using implicitly-generated queries (abstract). The documents may be addressed using SQL queries (col. 5, lines 59-67). Sarkar's claim 13 (col. 26, lines 1-42) includes steps of preparing and executing SQL queries, while claim 14 (cited by the Examiner) states that such queries may be addressed to various types of databases, data stores and XML/RDF documents.

Claim 30 recites a method for processing source data from diverse sources, in which source data are mapped to a markup language, based on a unified schema, responsively to a query in the markup language. The claim has been amended to clarify that the mapping is not carried out statically, in advance, but is rather performed in response to the query when the query is received. In other words, the unified data created by the method of claim 30 are not held as a static database, but are rather created dynamically when required by a particular query. This amendment is supported in the specification on page 12, lines 14-17.

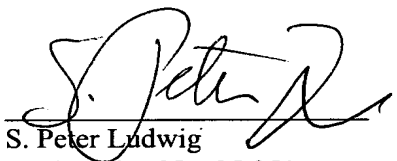
Although Sarkar describes the generation of XML/RDF documents from documents of other types (for example, in col. 9, lines 44-46), he neither teaches nor suggests that documents be mapped dynamically, in response to queries when they are received, as required by claim 30. Neither do any of the other cited references relate to queries in this manner, as noted by the Examiner in the present official action. Therefore, claim 30, as amended, is believed to be patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 31 and 32 recite apparatus and a computer software product, respectively, which operate on principles similar to the method of claim 30. These claims have been amended in similar fashion to claim 30, and are therefore believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of claim 32, claims 33 and 34, which depend from claim 32, are believed to be patentable, as well.

Applicant has studied the additional references made of record by the Examiner, and believes the claims in the present patent application to be patentable over these references, as well, whether the references are taken individually or in any combination.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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